NUMB. XLV.

The SPECTATOR.

Natio Comæda eſt —— Juv.

Saturday, April 21. 1711.

THERE is nothing which I more deſire than a ſafe and honourable Peace, tho' at the ſame time I am very apprehenſive of many ill Conſequences that may attend it. I do not mean in regard to our Politicks, but to our Manners. What an Inundation of Ribbons and Brocades will break in upon us? What Peals of Laughter and Impertinence ſhall we be expoſed to? For the Prevention of theſe great Evils, I could heartily wiſh that there was an Act of Parliament for Prohibiting the Importation of *French* Fopperies.

The Female Inhabitants of our Iſland have already received very ſtrong Impreſſions from this ludicrous Nation, tho' by the Length of the War (as there is no Evil which has not ſome Good attending it) they are pretty well worn out and forgotten. I remember the time when ſome of our well-bred Country Women kept their *Valet de Chambre*, becauſe forſooth, a Man was much more handy about them than one of their own Sex. I my ſelf have ſeen one of theſe Male *Abigails* tripping about the Room with a Looking-Glaſs in his hand, and combing his Lady's Hair a whole Morning together. Whether or no there was any Truth in the Story of a Lady's being got with Child by one of theſe her Hand-maids I cannot tell, but I think at preſent the whole Race of them is extinct in our own Country.

About the Time that ſeveral of our Sex were taken into this kind of Service, the Ladies likewiſe brought up the Faſhion of receiving Viſits in their Beds. It was then looked upon as a piece of Ill Breeding, for a Woman to refuſe to ſee a Man, becauſe ſhe was not ſtirring; and a Porter would have been thought unfit for his Place, that could have made ſo awkward an Excuſe. As I love to ſee every thing that is new, I once prevail'd upon my Friend WILL. HONY-COMB to carry me along with him to one of theſe Travell'd Ladies, deſiring him, at the ſame time, to preſent me as a Foreigner who could not ſpeak *Engliſh*, that ſo I might not be obliged to bear a Part in the Diſcourſe. The Lady, tho' willing to appear undreſt, had put on her beſt Looks, and painted her ſelf for our Reception. Her Hair appeared in a very nice Diſorder, as the Night-Gown which was thrown upon her Shoulders was ruffled with great Care. For my part, I am ſo ſhocked with every thing which looks immodeſt in the Fair Sex, that I could not forbear taking off my Eye from her when ſhe moved in her Bed, and was in the greateſt Confuſion imaginable every time ſhe ſtirred a Leg or an Arm. As the Coquets, who introduced this Cuſtom, grew old, they left it off by degrees, well knowing that a Woman of Threeſcore may kick and tumble her Heart out, without making any Impreſſions.

Sempronia is at preſent the moſt profeſt Admirer of the *French* Nation, but is ſo modeſt as to admit her Viſitants no farther than her Toilet. It is a very odd Sight that beautiful Creature makes, when ſhe is talking Politicks with her Treſſes flowing about her Shoulders, and examining that Face in the Glaſs, which does ſuch Execution upon all the Male Standers-by. How prettily does ſhe divide her Diſcourſe between her Woman and her Viſitants? What ſprightly Tranſitions does ſhe make from an Opera or a Sermon, to an Ivory Comb or a Pin-Cuſhion? How have I been pleaſed to ſee her interrupted in an Account of her Travels, by a Meſſage to her Foot man? and holding her Tongue, in the midſt of a Moral Reflection, by applying the tip of it to a Patch.

There is nothing which expoſes a Woman to greater Dangers, than that Gaiety and Airineſs of Temper, which are Natural to moſt of the Sex. It ſhould be therefore the Concern of every Wiſe and Virtuous Woman, to keep this Sprightlineſs from degenerating into Levity. On the contrary, the whole Diſcourſe and Behaviour of the *French* is to make the Sex more Fantaſtical, or (as they are pleaſed to term it,) *more awaken'd*, than is conſiſtent either with Virtue or Diſcretion. To ſpeak Loud in Publick Aſſemblies, to let every one hear you Talk of Things that ſhould only be mentioned in Private, or in Whiſper, are looked upon as Parts of a refined Education. At the ſame time, a Bluſh is unfaſhionable, and Silence more ill-bred than any thing that can be ſpoken. In ſhort, Diſcretion and Modeſty, which in all other Ages and Countries

tries have been regarded as the greateſt Ornaments of the Fair Sex, are conſidered as the Ingredients of narrow Converſation, and Family Behaviour.

Some Years ago, I was at the Tragedy of *Macbeth*, and unfortunately placed my ſelf under a Woman of Quality that is ſince Dead; who, as I found by the Noiſe ſhe made, was newly returned from *France*. A little before the riſing of the Curtain, ſhe broke out into a loud Soliloquy, *When will the dear Witches enter*; and immediately upon their firſt Appearance, asked a Lady that ſat three Boxes from her, on her Right Hand, if thoſe Witches were not charming Creatures. A little after, as *Betterton* was in one of the fineſt Speeches of the Play, ſhe ſhook her Fan at another Lady, who ſat as far on the left Hand, and told her with a Whiſper, that might be heard all over the Pit, We muſt not expect to ſee *Balloon* to Night. Not long after, calling out to a young Baronet by his Name, who ſat three Seats before me, ſhe asked him whether *Macbeth*'s Wife was ſtill alive; and before he could give an Anſwer) fell a talking of the Ghoſt of *Banquo*. She had by this time formed a little Audience to her ſelf, and fixed the Attention of all about her. But as I had a mind to hear the Play, I got out of the Sphere of her Impertinence, and planted my ſelf in one of the remoteſt Corners of the Pit.

This pretty Childiſhneſs of Behaviour is one of the moſt refined Parts of Coquetry, and is not to be attained in Perfection, by Ladies that do not Travel for their Improvement. A natural and unconſtrained Behaviour has ſomething in it ſo agreeable, that it is no wonder to ſee People endeavouring after it. But at the ſame time, it is ſo very hard to hit, when it is not Born with us, that People often make themſelves Ridiculous in attempting it.

A very Ingenious *French* Author tells us, that the Ladies of the Court of *France*, in his Time, thought it ill Breeding, and a kind of Female Pedantry, to pronounce an hard Word right; for which Reaſon they took frequent occaſion to uſe hard Words, that they might ſhew a Politeneſs in murdering them. He further adds, that a Lady of ſome Quality at Court, having accidentally made uſe of an hard Word in a proper Place, and Pronounced it right, the whole Aſſembly was out of Countenance for her.

I muſt however be ſo juſt to own, that there are many Ladies who have Travell'd ſeveral thouſands of Miles without being the worſe for it, and have brought Home with them all the Modeſty, Diſcretion and good Senſe, that they went abroad with. As on the contrary, there are great Numbers of *Travell'd* Ladies, that have lived all their Days within the Smoak of *London*. I have known a Woman that never was out of the Pariſh of St. *James's*, with as many Foreign Fopperies in her Carriage, as ſhe could have Gleaned up in half the Countries of *Europe*.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of March, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate, Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard, Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Saturday will be preſented the Tragedy of Valentinian, as it was alter'd by the late Earl of Rocheſter; the part of Valentinian by Mr. Powel, Ecius Mr. Kerr, Maximus Mr. Booth, Licinius Mr. Bullock, Balbus Mr. Norris, Chryſax Mr. Leigh, Lucina Mrs. Bradſhaw, Lycias Mrs. Porter: And on Monday next will be preſented a Comedy call'd the Amorous Widow, or the Wanton Wife, for the Benefit of Mr. Penkethman.

For the Benefit of Signiora Lody, on Tueſday the 24th of April, at Humes dancing School in Frith Street Soho, will be a Conſort of Vocal and Inſtrumental Muſick, a new Cantata with a Solo on the Harpſicord perform'd by Mr. Babell Junior, with Variety of Concertos, and other Pieces Compoſed and perform'd by Mr. Corbett and other of the beſt Maſters, beginning at 7 a Clock. Tickets are to be had at the Smyrna Chife-houſe, and at the door, at 5s. each.

This Day is publiſh'd,

The ſecret Hiſtory of the October Club: From its Original to this time. By a Member. Printed in the Year, 1711, and Sold by John Baker at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1s.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

A Vindication of the laſt Parliament. Sold by J. Baker at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 4d.

Journals of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, being the whole Reign of K. Charles. II. including the Convention in 1660, in ſix Volumes MS. bound and letter'd on the Back, with an Index to each Volume; to be ſold at Mr. Helmes's Bookſeller at the Kings Head in Weſtminſter Hall.

In a few Days will be Publiſh'd

The Life and Acts of Mathew Parker, the Firſt Archbiſhop of Canterbury in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Under whoſe Primacy and Influence the Reformation of Religion was happily Effected; and the Church of England Reſtored, and Eſtabliſhed upon the Principles whereon it ſtands to this Day. Wherein are related the ſaid Archbiſhop's Actions in Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſions and Synods: His Viſitations of the Dioceſes, Colleges and Hoſpitals within his Province, with his Injunctions and Regulations: Characters and Accounts of the Biſhops by him Conſecrated: His Endeavours for Uniformity: His Diligence in Retrieving, and Publiſhing many Saxon, and other Ancient Hiſtorical MSS. of this Nation: His Procuring a more correct Tranſlation of the Holy Bible: His Government of his own Dioceſe of Canterbury: His ſober Thoughts, Counſels and Cares for Religion and this Church: And many Particulars of the Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory, of thoſe Times, hitherto Unknown, or very Obſcure, are diſcovered and brought to Light. Compiled Faithfully out of Records, Regiſters, State-Papers, Orders of Council, Authentic Letters, and ſundry other Original MSS. In Four Books. To which is added, An Appendix, containing various Tranſcripts of Records, Letters, Inſtruments, Ordinances, Commiſſions, Diſcourſes, Relations, Intelligences, and other ſecret Papers, above an Hundred in Number; for the Aſſerting or Illuſtrating the foregoing Hiſtory. Among which will be found the Latin Life of this A. Bp. Entituled, Matthæus, ſo much and ſo long wanted in the Editions of the Britiſh Antiquities. By John Strype, M. A. Printed for John Wyat, at the Roſe in St. Paul's Church-yard.

This Day is publiſhed,

The Wiſdom of being Holy, in two parts, price 6d. Good Friday to be kept by all Chriſtians, and the manner of keeping it, On Zech. 12. 10. Price 2d. Likewiſe that celebrated Sermon, call'd the Nature and Neceſſity of Reſtitution, On Luke 19. 8. Price 3d. Written by the Right Reverend Father in God William Beveridge D. D. Late Lord Biſhop of St. Aſaph. Printed for Rich. Smith in Exeter Change in the Strand, with her Majeſty's Royal Priviledge to him, and Prohibition to others. N. B. Thoſe pious Perſons that buy numbers of them to give away, ſhall have an allowment of ten in the Hundred gratis. All this Author's Works, in Greek, Latin and Engliſh, may be had at the ſame Place.

Whereas it hath been reported that Carew Reynell, Mercer, at the Black a-Moors Head in Bedford Street Covent Garden, intended to leave of his Trade, this is therefore to ſatisfie all Perſons whom it may concern, that the ſaid Report is utterly falſe and groundleſs, and that the ſaid Carew Reynell hath no ſuch intention, but continues at the aforeſaid Shop together with his Partners, Triſtram Huddleſton, Iſaac Spiltimber and Samuel Wrexham, the ſaid Triſtram Huddleſton and Samuel Wrexham being removed from the Wheat Sheaf in Bedford Street to the Black-a-Moors Head, viz. where there is the greateſt variety of new Silks of all kinds and ſorts, from the higheſt to the loweſt price, to be ſold at reaſonable rates.

Drop'd yeſterday, between 4 and 5 a Clock in the Afternoon, near the Great Door of the New Exchange, 6 Pieces of fine Engliſh Lace, 5 of which contain'd 6 Yards each, and the other 4 Yards and a half: Whoever has taken it up, and will bring it to Mr. Charles Lillie, at the corner of Beauford Buildings, ſhall receive 3 Guineas Reward, and have no Queſtions ask'd; and if offer'd to be Sold or Pawn'd, you are deſired to ſtop it, and on Notice given as above, ſhall receive 2 Guineas Reward.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lille*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.